



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
444 North 3rd Street, Suite 270
Sacramento, CA 95814
Telephone (916) 323-9983
Fax (916) 323-9999
www.rcb.ca.gov



May 17, 2005

Inquiry: I have been told that respiratory therapists in California are not allowed to do pain assessment on patients. Do you know if this is true?

Response: Thank you for your inquiry. The board has the following opinion:

The scope of practice for a licensed respiratory care practitioner includes the ability to administer conscious sedation to patients. Safe administration of this practice would include a complete assessment of the patient before, during and after the procedure for appropriate clinical signs and symptoms, including pain.

Thank you for your inquiry. Should you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Executive Officer of the Respiratory Care Board.

Reference #: 2004-C-35